

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 19, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 17, 2003 (2400)

A. Large Fires

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5
National Preparedness Level = 5*

- **93 West Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires**
 - ***Black Mountain 2 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 7,316 acres, 29% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula, 636 personnel assigned. A Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) will assume command 8/20 at 0600.***
 - ***Beaver Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Frye) – 12,849 acres, 30% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula, 1153 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 10,400 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula, 377 personnel assigned..***
 - ***Cherry Creek – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 4,000 acres, 60% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls, 426 personnel assigned***
 - ***Milepost 59 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Beauchamp) has been ordered, 6,300 acres, 55% contained, 5 miles NW of Kamiah, ID 267 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Split Rock – Type 2 Incident Management Team has been ordered, 750 acres, 0% contained, 59 miles NW of Salmon, 29 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Slims Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 12,250 acres, 65% contained, 35 miles E of Grangeville, ID 302 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Clear/Nez Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Cones). This 7,791 acre fire is located 41 miles SW of Lolo in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness 19 personnel assigned***
 - ***Cayuse Lake Complex - Fire Use Management Team (Cones). 7,586 acres, 0% contained, 14 personnel assigned.***
- **Eastern Montana Zone MAC**
 - ***Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 38,400 acres, 85% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff, 272 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Craig II – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) - 5,250 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Lame Deer, 106 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Eastern Montana Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team***

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT
400 AM MDT TUE AUG 19 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today...Mostly Sunny With Smoke In The Valleys. Highs 86 To 96.
Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms. Lows 47 To 57.
Wednesday...Partly Cloudy In The North...Mostly Sunny In The South Highs 78 To 88.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today...Mostly Sunny. Smoke. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.
Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms In The Evening Then Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms After Midnight. Lows In The 50s.
Wednesday...Partly Cloudy In The Morning Then Clearing. Slight Chance Of Morning Showers And Thunderstorms East. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today...Mostly Sunny. Smoke. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.
Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms After Midnight. Lows In The Lower 40s To Mid 50s.
Wednesday...Mostly Sunny. Highs In The Lower 70s To Mid 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today...Mostly Sunny. Becoming Partly Cloudy With Morning Showers And Thunderstorms Southeast. Highs In The Mid 80s To Mid 90s.
Tonight...Partly Cloudy. A Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms West Late. Lows In The 50s And 60s.
Wednesday...Windy. Partly Cloudy. A Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The 80s.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Rtavalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current Army National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
3 UH-60S	7 HMMVs	7 Overhead
	3 HEMTTs	52 Aviation/Aviation Support
	1 1 ¼ TRAILER	166 Soldiers assigned Fire Crews
	4 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
	1 M1009 CONTACT TRUCK	
<i>3 Aircraft Modules Assigned</i>	<i>16 HVY Equipment Assigned</i>	<i>225 Soldiers Assigned</i>

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
 - Northwest Area Command
 - 93 West Area Command
 - Central Command
 - Sweetgrass & Missoula County (Hobble Fire)

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures